

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An information retrieval apparatus that enables users to search regionally related information is provided. When a user inputs search terms for searching, a place name is extracted from the search terms. Furthermore, the apparatus extracts another place name of a region that is judged to be within a reasonable search zone of the region indicated by the extracted place name. Regional information is searched using the extracted place name and the selected place name. The user may search for lifestyle information regionally related to his/her residence. The user may pre-register the items of the lifestyle information. When the user moves to a new address, the apparatus searches lifestyle information of the new address based on the registered items and presents the updated information to the user.